

Letter to Hershey Asks for Farm Labor Draft Deferment

Appomattox, Va., October 7, 1942. National Director, Selective System, Washington, D. C. Secretary Claude R. Wickard, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Washington, D. C. Honorable Patrick H. Drewry, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. Honorable Clifton A. Woodrom, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen: Solid foundation for a United Nations Victory is a well-fought, well-fought, well-equipped fighting force. To keep that force in fighting trim is at once the responsibility and the privilege of the American Farmer.

Today's farming job is a big one - the largest we've ever tackled.

It requires the highest type of management in making every acre produce its maximum in food and fiber. "Keep 'em rolling on to market!" That's Uncle Sam's urgent request for greater production of pork, beef, mutton, eggs, and milk for the fighting forces of America and her allies.

Meeting the ever-growing food demands is a big job - just as important as the building of tanks, planes, or guns. It requires more and better breeding stock, more careful handling of livestock and poultry, better utilization of home grown feeds.

Food is as important as munition of war, as powder, shells and guns. We must have both or we will fail. We already face a food shortage. Papers are announcing a general food rationing for next year. Today the demand for some items is greater than the supply. If food prices to the farmer have been selected to the slaughter, the production will further diminish, bread and butter will become scarce and a food shortage comparable to rubber will confront our people. Sugar, gasoline, fuel oil and rubber rationing are here. Meat rationing is just around the corner.

What is the condition of our farmers today? Farmers are under heavy debts. Farmers are not able to obtain to pay their labor to produce our crops. Farmers' soil have gone to war and farmhands have gone into defense plants and the war. The farmer's wife and children are carrying on in every way to continue to feed and clothe our soldiers and our people. What ever comes, this they will do to the limit of their endurance.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has stated that already two million farm workers have left the

U.S. Marines -

by Krel

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